

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 10538 111247Z
ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 INSE-00 CA-01 VO-05
CIAE-00 DODE-00 SY-05 /040 W
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R 111225Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2894
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
USMISSION GENEVA
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMCONSUL SONGKHLA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 10538

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SREF
SUBJECT: RTG BOAT REFUGEE POLICY

1. DURING MARCH, UNHCR FIGURES REFLECT THAT
19 BOATS FROM VIETNAM ARRIVED IN THAILAND. THEY
CARRIED 373 REFUGEES. OF THI TOTAL, 14 BOATS
WITH 219 REFUGEES WERE ADMITTED INTO THE CAMP AT
SONGKHLA, AND 5 BOATS WITH 154 REFUGEES AT LAEM
SING. THESE FIGURES DO NOT REFLECT 4 BOATS
CARRYING 89 REFUGEES WHO LANDED AT SATTAHIP DURING
THE MONTH. THESE REFUGEES MADE THEIR WAY BY SEA
TO LAEM SING APRIL 7 AND 8 (BANGKOK 10380).

2. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH WE CONTINUE TO RECEIVE
REPORTS THAT THAI BANDITS ROB MANY OF THESE BOATS
WITHIN THAI TERRITORIAL WATERS, AND THAT LOCAL
THAI POLICE AND OTHER OFFICIALS SOMETIMES
EXTRACT UNOFFICIAL LANDING FEES FROM REFUGEES, WE
BELIEVE THAT THE LARGE NUMBER OF SUCCESSFUL
BOAT ARRIVALS CLEARLY REFLECTS THE FACT THAT
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RTG CENTRAL GOVERNMENT POLICY CONTINUES TO BE
ONE OF ACCEPTING NEW BOAT ARRIVALS.

3. THE WIDE PUBLICITY GIVEN TO IPP-78 AND THE
RECENTLY ACCELERATED MOVEMENT OF BOAT CASE
REFUGEES OUT OF THAILAND TO THE UNITED STATES AND
OTHER COUNTRIES HAVE BEEN, WE BELIEVE, PAR-

TICULARLY IMPORTANT FACTORS AFFECTING THE RELA-
TIVELY TOLERANT RTG BOAT ASYLUM POLICY.
WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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To: STATE
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